

# **MINUTES**

## **RHODE ISLAND HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

**October 17, 2014**

**The 345th meeting of the Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority was held Friday, October 17, 2014. Chairwoman Ms. LaSalle called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.**

### **Board Members in Attendance:**

**Ms. Faith LaSalle, Chairwoman**

**Dr. William Croasdale**

**Mr. John Howell**

**Mr. Robert Delaney**

**Mr. Daniel Egan**

**Mr. Christopher Feisthamel, designee for General Treasurer Gina Raimondo**

**Ms. Christine Jenkins**

**Ms. Leah Williams Metts**

### **Members Absent:**

**None**

### **Also Attending:**

**Ms. Gail Mance-Rios, Acting Executive Director**

**Mr. Joseph Palumbo, Legal Counsel**

**Mr. Charles Miller, CIO**

**Mr. Marc Lacroix, CFO**

**Ms. Linda Makhlouf, HR**

**Mr. Michael Joyce, S&G**

**Mr. Thomas Pearce, Account Resolution**

**Ms. Dana Peterson-Fatuda, Administration**

**Ms. Patia Bertram, Accounting**

**Ms. Winifred Antos, RIHEAA**

**Mr. Kevin Elliott, RIHEAA**

**Mr. Stephen Strycharz, Council 94 President**

**Ms. Erica Olobri, Marcum**

**Ms. Liza Cohen, Legislative Analyst**

**Mr. Gregory Stack, Budget Office**

**Mr. Nelson Sena, RIHEAA**

**Ms. Kathy Berard, RIHEAA**

**Ms. Shirley Roy, RIHEAA**

**1. Approval of the Minutes of the RIHEAA Board of Director's meetings held on September 25, 2014 and September 30, 2014 were unanimously approved. The Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on September 23, 2014 and the Personnel Committee Meeting held on October 2, 2014 were unanimously approved.**

**2. Chair's Report: Ms. LaSalle asked to move item #9 up on the agenda. Ms. LaSalle made a motion to enter into Executive Session to receive an update and advice from legal counsel and/or to discuss**

the status of pending (Kerwin v. RIHEAA) or threatened (Lacroix v. RIHEAA) litigation matters pursuant Section 42-46-5 (a)(1) of the Open Meetings Law, seconded by Mr. Feisthamel and Mr. Delaney at 9:45 a.m.

Public resumed at 10:05 a.m.

Ms. LaSalle stated there were no votes taken in Executive Session and made a motion to seal the minutes, seconded by Mr. Howell.

Voted in Favor: Ms. LaSalle, Ms. Metts, Mr. Egan, Ms. Jenkins, Mr. Delaney, Dr. Croasdale, Mr. Howell and Mr. Feisthamel.

Votes against: None

Ms. LaSalle asked Mr. Feisthamel for an update on the State Investment Commission (SIC) RPF response. Mr. Feisthamel stated that the SIC has chosen Capital Cities to provide 529 oversight and to renegotiate the Alliance Bernstein contract. The SIC is seeking approval from their Board to move forward. The meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, October 22, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. at the State House.

3. Presentation of the RIHEST Audit: Dr. Croasdale asked Ms. Olobri of Marcum to review the Rhode Island Higher Education Savings Trust Audit (RIHEST). Dr. Croasdale asked Ms. Olobri to update the

**report to reflect investments as of 6/30/14. Ms. Olobri stated after several samples, the audit looks clean. Dr. Croasdale made a motion to accept the RIHEST Audit, seconded by Mr. Howell.**

**Voted in Favor: Ms. LaSalle, Ms. Metts, Mr. Egan, Ms. Jenkins, Mr. Delaney, Dr. Croasdale, Mr. Howell and Mr. Feisthamel.**

**Voted against: None**

**4. Action Item #6 – Review and Approval of the S&G Suite Lease: Ms. Mance-Rios stated that she was contacted by the Department of Administration to do a short term lease for the space on the second floor, suite 206 for the incoming Treasurer’s transition team. Mr. Palumbo reviewed the contract prior to it coming to the board. A motion to approve the short term lease was made by Dr. Croasdale and seconded by Mr. Howell.**

**Voted in Favor: Mr. Feisthamel, Ms. Metts, Ms. LaSalle, Mr. Egan, Dr. Croasdale, Mr. Delaney, Ms. Jenkins and Mr. Howell.**

**Voted against: None**

**5. Action Item #8 – Review and Approval of the SLMA Amendment: Ms. Mance-Rios reviewed the contract with the board and stated, Mr. Palumbo reviewed the contract before coming to the board. Mr. Pearce stated after conversations with Navient (Sallie Mae), they have**

**informed him that the transition will begin in the first quarter, not January 1st as discussed. Mr. Delaney asked, what is the cost of the delay, when is the implementation date, and could we do a particle implementation?**

**A motion to approve the Navient contract with the condition that it is implemented by January 1, 2015 was made by Mr. Feisthamel and seconded by Mr. Delaney.**

**Voted in Favor: Mr. Feisthamel, Ms. LaSalle, Mr. Egan, Dr. Croasdale, Mr. Delaney, Ms. Jenkins and Mr. Howell.**

**Voted against: None**

**Ms. Metts was not present for the vote.**

**6. Acting Executive Director's Report: Ms. Mance-Rios distributed an organization chart with the recommendation from the Personnel Committee; she included the salaries and benefits to the organizational chart. Ms. Jenkins asked if years of service can be added to the document. Ms. LaSalle asked the Personnel Committee to review the material provided.**

**There being no further business to come before the Board of Director's, the meeting adjourned.**

**Adjournment was at 10:55 a.m.**

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**Mr. John Howell**

**Secretary**